Brownfields News

Rural Communities Take Advantage of Brownfield Targeted Assessments

When we think of brownfield properties, many times it is the vacant run down buildings in the center of major

metropolitan areas that come to mind. Although not as visible but equally important, it is the rural communities across Kansas that have been utilizing the Kansas Brownfields Program to assess properties that sit along their local highways or Main Streets that remained vacant and/or run down for way too long. The U.S. Center Foundation is a non-for-profit organization based in Lebanon, KS, that has taken on the duty of revitalizing run down and unsafe buildings along their Main Street. It is the Foundation's as well as the community's goal to transform these hazardous eye sores into a small community center, daycare, park, and the Geographic Center of U.S. Gift Shop. Fundraising efforts began in



May with a community wide picnic to raise awareness of the Foundation's mission.



The town of Minneola is another example of a rural community working with the Kansas Brownfields Program to revitalize a portion of town that at one time was booming. This area is located along the intersection of US Highways 283 and 54. This section of town was once occupied with numerous gasoline stations thriving on the once heavily traveled thoroughfares. With the introduction of newly constructed instate highways, travel along both US-283 and US-54 decreased, forcing many of those gas stations and businesses to close. Due to the concern of contamination and liability these properties have remained vacant or

underutilized for a number of years. It is the town of Minneola's goal to return these properties back to productive use as soon as possible.

Assessment activities have started for both communities. We will keep updates available as progress is made as each community moves towards their final redevelopment goals.

For more information on the Kansas Brownfields Program contact:

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